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ARTICLES
OF
ENQUIRY

Upon which the

Miniſters, Church-wardens, and *Side-men*

Of every PARISH within the

Archdeaconry of *Buckingham,*

ARE TO

Ground their Preſentments,

AT THE

VISITATION

Of the Archdeaconry of *Buckingham,*

By the Right Reverend Father in God,

Clagett.

NICOLAS Lord Biſhop of St. DAVID'S,

AND

ARCHDEACON of *BUCKINGHAM.*

In the Year of our LORD 1732

The Church-wardens OATH.

YOU shall Swear, That you will Well and truly Execute the Office of a Church-Warden in the Parish Where you are chosen for the ensuing Year, and to the best of your Skill and Knowledge Present such Persons and Things as are Presentable by the Ecclesiastical Laws of this Realm.

So help you God, and the
Contents of this Book.

Canons of the Church,

For the making of Preſentments by Church-wardens Regularly *and* Conſcientiouſly.

Can. xxvi. *Notorious Offenders not to be admitted to the Communion.*

NO Miniſter ſhall in any wiſe admit to the receiving of the Holy Communion——any Church-wardens, or Side-men, who having taken their Oaths to preſent to their Ordinaries all ſuch publick Offences, as they are particularly charged to enquire of in their ſeveral Pariſhes, ſhall (notwithſtanding their ſaid Oaths, and that their faithful diſcharging of them is the chief Means whereby publick Sins and Offences may be reformed and puniſhed) wittingly and willingly, deſperately and irreligiouſly, incur the horrible Crime of Perjury; either in neglecting or in refuſing to preſent ſuch of the ſaid Enormities and publick Offences, as they know themſelves to be committed in their ſaid Pariſhes, or are notoriouſly offenſive to the Congregation there; although they be urged by ſome of their Neighbours, or by their Miniſter, or by their Ordinary himſelf, to diſcharge their Conſciences by preſenting them, and not to incur ſo deſperately the ſaid horrible Sin of Perjury.

In Can. cxvi. Entituled, *Church-wardens not bound to Preſent oftner than twice a Year.*

——PRovided always, That as good Occaſion ſhall require, it ſhall be lawful for every Miniſter, Church-wardens and Side-men, to preſent Offenders as oft as they ſhall think meet. And likewiſe for any godly diſpoſed Perſon, or for any Eccleſiaſtical Judge, upon Knowledge or Notice given unto him or them, of any enormous Crime within his Juriſdiction, to move the Miniſter, Church-wardens and Side-men, as they tender the Glory of God and Reformation of Sin, to preſent the ſame, if they ſhall find ſufficient Cauſe to induce them thereunto, that it may be in due time puniſhed and reformed. Provided, that for their voluntary Preſentments, there be no Fee required or taken of them, under the Pain aforeſaid. In

In Can. cxvii. Entituled, *Church-wardens not to be troubled for not Preſenting oftner than twice a Year.*

——NEither ſhall they, nor any of them, after their Preſentments exhibited at any of thoſe times, be at any further Trouble for the ſame, except upon manifeſt and evident Proof it may appear, that they did willingly and wittingly omit to preſent ſome ſuch Crime, or Crimes, as they knew to be committed, or could not be ignorant that there was then a publick Fame of them; or unleſs there be very juſt Cauſe to call them for the Explanation of their former Preſentments. In which Caſe of wilful Omiſſion, their Ordinaries ſhall proceed againſt them in ſuch ſort, as in Cauſes of wilful Perjury in a Court Eccleſiaſtical it is already by Law provided.

Can. cxix. *Convenient Time to be aſſigned for framing Preſentments.*

FOR the avoiding of ſuch Inconveniences as heretofore have happen'd by the haſty making of Bills of Preſentments, upon the Days of the Viſitation and Synods, it is order'd, That always hereafter every Chancellor, Archdeacon, Commiſſary and Official, and every other Perſon having Eccleſiaſtical Juriſdiction, at the ordinary time when the Church-wardens are ſworn, and the Archbiſhop and Biſhops when he or they do ſummon their Viſitation, ſhall deliver, or cauſe to be deliver'd to the Church-wardens, Queſt-men and Side-men of every Pariſh, or to ſome of them, ſuch Books of Articles, as they or any of them ſhall require, for the Year following, the ſaid Church-wardens, Queſt-men and Side-men to ground their Preſentments upon, at ſuch times as they are to exhibit them. In which Book ſhall be contained the Form of the Oath which muſt be taken immediately before every ſuch Preſentment: To the Intent, that having before-hand time ſufficient, not only to peruſe and conſider what their ſaid Oath ſhall be, but the Articles alſo whereupon they are to ground their Preſentments, they may frame them at home both adviſedly and truly, to the Diſcharge of their own Conſciences, after they are ſworn, as becometh honeſt and godly Men.

ARTICLES OF ENQUIRY, *&c.*

TIT. I.

Concerning the CLERGY.

1. IS your *Miniſter* a Perſon of ſober, unblameable, and exemplary Life?

2. Is he reſident upon his *Benefice*; or, if not, hath he a *Curate* conſtantly reſiding?

3. Doth your Miniſter dwell in the Parſonage, or Vicarage-houſe?

4. Doth he read the whole Service of the Church, as preſcribed by the Book of Common-Prayer, diſtinctly, audibly, and devoutly, without Omiſſion or Alteration? And doth he alſo Preach conſtantly every *Sunday*; unleſs hinder'd by Sickneſs, or other reaſonable Impediment?

5. Doth he Adminiſter the Holy Sacrament, at leaſt three times a Year?

6. Doth he diligently Catechize the Youth of your Pariſh, in the Church, upon Sundays and Holy Days?

7. Is he careful in Viſiting the Sick, and in preparing them for their Departure out of this Life?

TIT. II.

Concerning the Pariſhioners.

1. ARE there any in your Pariſh, who lie under a common Fame, or vehement Suſpicion, of Adultery, Fornication, or Inceſt?

2. Are there in your Pariſh any common Swearers, or Drunkards?

3. Are there any who commonly abſent themſelves from Morning or Evening Service, on the Lord's-day?

4. Are there any who behave themſelves diſorderly in the Church?

5. Are there any who follow their Callings or ordinary Labour on the Lord's-day, or who compel or permit their Children or Servants ſo to do?

6. Are there any who keep open Shops, or ſuffer Perſons to tipple in their Houſes, on the Lord's-day?

TIT. III.

Concerning Pariſh *and* Church-Officers.

1. ARE your Church-wardens choſen every Year in *Eaſter-week*, by the Miniſter and Pariſhioners; or one by the Miniſter, and the other by the Pariſhioners?

2. Have the laſt Church-wardens given a juſt Account to the Miniſter and Pariſhioners, and delivered up whatſoever Money or other things do of right belong to the Church or Pariſh?

3. Have you a Pariſh-Clerk, of Twenty Years of Age or upwards, and well qualified for the decent and laudable Diſcharge of that Office?

4. Doth he, or the Sexton, open and ſhut the Church-doors at due times, and toll the Bells for Divine Service at the uſual Hours?

5. Doth he, or the Sexton, take care that the Church be kept clean from Duſt and Cobwebs, and the like Annoyances?

TIT. IV.

Concerning the Officers *of the Archdeacon's Court.*

1. HATH any Officer of the Archdeacon's Court demanded, or taken undue and unreaſonable Fees, for any Cauſe or Matter tranſacted by him?

2. Hath any Officer of the ſaid Court ſuppreſſed or delayed the Proſecution of Perſons duly Preſented by the Miniſter or Church-wardens?

3. Hath any of them taken Money by way of Commutation for Offences, or otherwiſe, to excuſe or diſmiſs the Offenders from Puniſhment?

TIT. V.

Concerning Churches and Church-yards, and the Manſion-Houſes of Parſons, Vicars, and Curates.

1. IS the Roof of your Church and Chancel good and ſecured againſt Rain? Are the Walls and Doors in good Repair? Are the Windows well-glazed? And is the Floor kept paved, plain, and even?

2. Are the Seats of your Church in good Repair; and are they ſo ordered, that all Perſons preſent at Divine Service may, with Convenience, reverently kneel upon their Knees, as they are directed to do, by the Book of Common-Prayer, and by the XVIIIth Canon?

3. Have you a Font of Stone?

4. Have you a decent Pulpit?

5. Have you a convenient Seat for the Miniſter to read Service in?

6. Have you a decent Table for the Celebration of the Holy Communion?

7. Have you a Carpet of Silk, or other decent Stuff, wherewith to cover the Communion-Table in time of Divine Service?

8. Have you a Linnen Cloth, wherewith to cover the Communion Table at the time of Adminiſtring?

9. Have you alſo a Linnen Cloth, for covering what ſhall remain of the conſecrated Elements, after all have communicated?

10. Have

10. Have you a decent Baſin for the Offertory?

11. Have you a Flagon, Chalice, and Patin, of Pewter or purer Metal, to be uſed at the holy Communion?

12. Is your Church provided with the following Books: 1. The Holy Bible of the largeſt Volume. 2. The Book of Common-Prayer. 3. The Books of Homilies? And are all theſe Books in good Condition, entire, and fit for Uſe?

13. Have you a Pariſh-Regiſter of Parchment, for entring the Chriſtenings, Weddings, and Burials of your Pariſh, and are the Entries conſtantly and carefully made therein, according to the Intent and Purpoſe of the LXXth Canon?

14. Have you a Coffer with three Locks and Keys, wherein to keep the Pariſh-Regiſter, and other Writings of Conſequence relating to your Church?

15. Have you a decent Surplice and Hood?

16. Is the Table concerning Marriages, ſet forth by Authority *Anno Dom.* 1563. ſet up and fixed in your Church?

17. Are the Ten Commandments ſet upon the *Eaſt* End of your Church?

18. Are choſen Sentences written, in convenient Places, upon the Walls of your Church?

19. Have you a Bier and Herſe-cloth for the Burial of the Dead?

20. Are your Bells kept in due Repair?

21. Is your Church-yard well and ſufficiently repaired, fenced, and maintained, with Walls, Rails, or Pales, as it hath been accuſtomed to be? Is it kept clean and decent? And are the Trees growing therein duly preſerved?

22. Are there any of the Pariſhioners who refuſe to pay their Rates towards the Repairs of the Church, and the providing of ſuch things as are neceſſary for the Service of Almighty God?

23. Is the Dwelling-houſe of your Rector, Vicar, or Curate, with the other Houſes, Buildings, and Fences thereunto belonging, kept in good and decent Repair?

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